



THE
JEWISH
DAILY

FORWARD

JANUARY 1984

שער זהב

TEVET / SHEVAT 5744

Dedicating Our Home

YES, WE'VE ALREADY STARTED CELEBRATING the acquisition of our new home. In some small ways, and in some larger ways; some celebrations have been personal, some have been more public. But for the really big, formal dedication, you need a committee! (If not committees!)

Welcome please, the Congregation's Dedication Committee which is now working on planning the formal dedication celebration. The committee formed for this purpose includes as members: Mike Zimmerman, Talia Shafir, Garry Koenigsberg and Frank Hyman.

Although the plans are far from final, the Committee wanted to describe some of the activities as they are envisioned at this stage. The event is scheduled to occupy a full weekend, beginning on Friday evening and ending on Sunday afternoon. The Ritual Committee will present special Friday night and Saturday morning services. On Saturday afternoon, we may hold study and discussion

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Spring Holiday Celebrations Planned

ALREADY IT'S TIME. Sha'ar Zahav's Purim Celebration (Megillah Madness II?) will be held Saturday evening, March 17. The planning committee for this event is presently being formed. Anyone who attended last year's Megillah Madness can attest to the tremendous success of our Sha'ar Zahav brand of Purim gaiety. With such a foundation, this year's celebration can only be better.

Then a month later, on Tuesday, April 17, members of the Congregation and friends will be sitting down together for our Congregational Seder (the Second Seder).

If you would like to help with either of these events, please speak to Mike Rankin or any Va'ad member — or leave your name with Susan Greenspan at the Synagogue office (861-6932). There's nothing more rewarding than helping to bring about an event as joyous as our Purim and Pesach celebrations.

From the Rabbi Search Committee...

OUR COMMITTEE is made up of eight members of the congregation who represent the broad range of diversity in our Congregational family; men and women, younger and older persons, newer and older members of Sha'ar Zahav, with religious backgrounds and practices ranging from Orthodox to Reformed (we demonstrate Reconformodoxy in the best CSZ tradition), and with diverse levels of involvement in CSZ, the Jewish community and the gay/lesbian community. Our committee was brought into being last summer after several months of discussion by the Va'ad and after the results of last Spring's membership questionnaire showed significant interest in hiring a rabbi.

During our earliest meetings, we agreed to adhere to a confidential process, as recommended by the UAHC, to insure that the privacy of all potential candidates would be assured and also to insure that all members of the Congregation received accurate, timely and identical information regarding the activities of our committee. We all agreed to make our commitment to this work a first priority, to attend each and every meeting, and to remain on the Committee until the task was seen through to completion. We have two three-hour meetings every month during which we engage in deep and soul-searching discussions, on both individual and global levels, to develop a clear picture of who we (CSZ) are, where we have been and where we are going. We are attempting to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of Sha'ar Zahav, how it fulfills our needs and expectations, and how it fits our definition of "mishpucha." Part of the reason for this approach is that the UAHC advice indicates that the better a rabbi search committee understands its congregation, the more apparent will be an appropriate candidate when s/he is interviewed.

We have reviewed a great deal of written material from the UAHC, as well as the CSZ membership questionnaire from last Spring and a report by our sibling congregation, Beth Chayim Chadashim in Los Angeles, whose rabbi

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Rabbi Search Reports (continued from page 1)

search recently concluded with the hiring of a rabbi on a part-time basis. In addition, we met for several hours with Rabbi Hershman, regional director of the UAHC, to inform him of our undertaking, to ask his advice and counsel, and to discuss with him our need to "get the word out" to the greatest number of potential candidates.

We have spent much time ascertaining what professional qualifications and personal attributes in a rabbi would best enhance our congregational life. We are being informed greatly in this respect by members of the Congregation, all of whom received invitations to attend special "parlor meetings" with the Committee in December. This report is written shortly after the first of those meetings, where everyone in attendance agreed that it was a very enlightening, as well as extremely pleasant, experience — both for the congregants attending and for the committee.

Although the process of self-definition and needs assessment is not complete, we are making significant progress and plan to be able to make a further report to the Congregation soon. Following this, we will be ready to start placing ads, notices, press releases and articles in a number of publications. We then hope to begin interviewing candidates in the Spring.

Meanwhile, the committee happily proceeds in its challenging and exciting task. In the months to come, we will be keeping you posted as to our further progress.

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All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll, Irene Ogus and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Bart Benderoff, Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Sam Thal and Alan Schrager (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$10 per column inch with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads (for members only) are \$1.00 for up to 20 words, additional words at 5¢ each.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Va'ad Report

THE DECEMBER VA'AD MEETING took place on December 12, 1983. Treasurer David Stein chaired the meeting, as Mike Rankin was speaking at the Hillel Convention at Grossingers. Major topics of discussion included a lengthy report by the Building Committee. Now that we own a home of our own, we are facing the responsibility of maintaining and improving upon the property itself. Repairs will soon be underway to fortify the building structure, including work on the roof, the underside of the building, and heating and plumbing. The Building Committee is very hard at work, making sure that the repairs being done are necessary, and done properly. David Gellman is chairing the Building Committee, and everyone is welcome to attend meetings. See the new calendar posted in the Oneg room if you are interested in attending any of our committee meetings. It is an excellent way to get involved in the Congregation and meet new friends.

Mark Mendelow was unanimously elected by the Va'ad to fill the vacated Va'ad position created by the resignation of Bruce Katz. Congratulations to you Mark, and welcome aboard... we know you will do a great job!!!

Plans are underway for both Purim and Pesach. The dates for these are:

Purim: Saturday evening, March 17

Pesach Congregational Seder: Tuesday evening, April 17

Please mark your calendars, as these two events are highlights of the congregational year! Details will be forthcoming in the *Forward* as to where these events will be held.

The Bikur Cholim committee announced that they will be contacting each and every member of the Congregation in order to find out what people can do to help a congregant in need. (For example, cook, clean, run errands, etc.) Please cooperate with them so that we can all be a family for each other.

Four new members were voted into our family this month. For those of you who have not yet joined, take the plunge! Becoming a member is a way to really feel part of things.

The next Va'ad meeting will be held on Monday, January 9 at 6:30 P.M. at 220 Danvers. All are invited to attend.

Until next month....

— Eric Keitel, Recorder

Sophie Returns!

Mark your calendars! Sophie (and friends) will again be appearing in the Bay Area this month. We at Sha'ar Zahav first encountered Sophie — in the person of Judy Sloan — when Judy brought a preview of her cast of characters to our Synagogue last May and later when a group from the Synagogue went to see her knockout performance at Valencia Rose. Now this very talented performer will be appearing again at the Valencia Rose, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, from January 19 through January 28. For further information, call the Valencia Rose at 863-3863.

Night of a Thousand Latkes

SHA'AR ZAHAV'S ANNUAL CHANUKAH CELEBRATION and Latke Party took place on Friday evening, December 3, at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center. Over 300 people filled the auditorium at the J.C.C. for a wonderful evening that began with a beautiful service led by the members of our illustrious Ritual Committee. Following the service, latkes appeared like "manna from heaven." The latkes were delicious and plentiful, as was the homemade applesauce that went with them. (Our semi-pro latke crew turned out about 1,200 latkes in the under three hours.) After everyone had a chance to "ess and fress," there was spirited Israeli folk-dancing and dreidel games with prizes. Those attending also had the chance to place their orders for Jewish-themed silk-screened items from the folks at "Good as Gold" who will be donating a portion of their proceeds from the evening to the shul.

Many, many thanks to the more than 20 people who worked to make this year's party happen. The spirit of cooperation was terrific, from the first planning meeting until the last frying pan was washed, and this clearly showed in the good time everyone was having at the party.

— Mark Mendelow, Chair
Social Program Committee

Dedication (continued from page 1)

groups to give congregants and friends an opportunity to experience the building in a quieter, more reflective setting. Possible events for Saturday night range from a very large party at another location to a small event or events at the building which would be aimed at thanking the many contributors who helped make our purchase of the building possible. On Sunday, it is hoped, there will be a gala dedication ceremony, complete with bringing the torah into the Synagogue, dancing in the streets, speeches (short ones, please) by a variety of dignitaries, and maybe even entertainment.

Ordinarily, we would urge you to mark your calendars now so you won't miss this most important event. However, setting the date awaits final coordination and Va'ad approval. Our dedication weekend could be as early as February, but more likely in March or April.

Do You Know. . .

Why you need title insurance when you buy your home?

Your Attorney Can Help You Understand.

David R. Gellman, Attorney at Law

45 Franklin St., San Francisco 94102, 621-2966

COMMITTEES!

Hurray, It's the PR Committee...

The Public Relations Committee will hold its first meeting of the New Year on Monday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the Synagogue. All those folks interested in writing copy, press releases, updating media lists, video, photography, graphics, etc., JOIN US! If the above sounds fascinating, most fascinating or beyond the limits of fascination, please call Sharyn Saslafsky at 821-7846 for further information.

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee will hold its first meeting of 1984 on Thursday, January 5, 6:30 p.m., at the Synagogue. Led by the Committee's new chair, Ron Lezell, this meeting will be both a planning and an action-taking meeting. The Committee will be organizing our Congregation's participation in the ongoing vigil held at the Soviet Consulate, sponsored by the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry. In addition, the Committee will be exploring other areas of concern to the Congregation which fall within the charge given to the Social Action Committee: Mainly, to further relationships with other congregations and organizations within the Jewish Community and within the community-at-large. In addition, in consultation with the Va'ad and in accordance with the principles of Judaism, the committee promotes programs that would be beneficial to the Congregation and to the community to work toward the elimination of injustice.

Try to make the January 5 meeting, but if you can't, for more information on the committee and/or participating in the protest vigil, please call Ron Lezell at 621-3930.

Building Committee

The Building Committee is currently holding meetings every other Thursday at the Synagogue to deal with both the physical needs of our owning a building and planning the future utilization and ongoing renovation of the building. If you are interested in working on the development of our new home, please contact David Gellman at 621-2966 (daytime).

Women's Chavurah

The next meeting and planning and discussion session of the Women's Chavurah will be held Tuesday, January 3, 7:00 p.m., at Nanci Stern's home, 4665 18th Street. All women are invited to attend.

Mike's Column

Do We Need a Rabbi?

RABBI: 1. The ordained spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation. 2. Formerly, a person authorized to interpret Jewish law.

So says the *American Heritage Dictionary*. The definition in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* is a little longer.

Definitions aside, the real question is — do we *need* a rabbi? The issue came up at the Congregational Meeting in November, and it's come up in private conversations I've had with friends in the Congregation. The discussion goes something like this: "We're doing everything so well on our own, why do we need to *pay* someone to lead services? Won't that cut back on our volunteerism? One of the reasons I joined Sha'ar Zahav is that they let me be involved in a meaningful way, I feel needed here. I don't want someone doing my "Jewishing" for me. Besides, can we really afford a Rabbi?"

A very good argument; thoughtful, well reasoned, and a wonderful tribute to everyone who has led a service, set up an Oneg, prepared a person for Bat/Bar Mitzvah, written a prayer, led a song, swept the floor of the Synagogue, recruited a new member, given blood for the Synagogue account, visited the sick and shut-in, helped rescue an Ethiopian Jew. All of these things, we *have* done without a rabbi (at least, without one we pay — Rabbi Ben volunteers like the rest of us).

Nonetheless, I'm convinced we *do* need a rabbi, all the more because we are doing so much that is good.

Let's face it, few of us have had really positive experiences or relationships with our synagogue spiritual leaders in the past — before we joined Sha'ar Zahav. For many of us, the rabbi was a remote, unapproachable figure who had little impact on our lives. (There are, of course, wonderful exceptions.)

Such a figure from the past, we don't need — that I grant you.

But just suppose the Rabbi Search Committee is able to find a "trained Jewish professional" who can be a wonderful preacher and teacher, counselor and consoler. Suppose he or she can provide a key to those areas of Jewish tradition and practice and learning and spirituality which really will make a difference in our lives.

How about a rabbi who can speak effectively and forcefully for gay people in the general Jewish community, and for the Jews in the broader gay and lesbian communities? One who, instead of "taking over," will serve as a catalyst and energizer, bringing *more* volunteers into the work of the Congregation, helping us do all that needs doing more efficiently and harmoniously. And one who could help us make good use of all the community resources that are there for us, if we can find out how to "access" them.

How about a rabbi who could coordinate our educational programs without doing all the teaching him or herself?

It seems to me that if we can find such a person, we'll be doing even more than we're doing now. We'll do it better, and we'll enjoy it more. I also suspect there will be more of us to do it. Remember — there are at least 10,000 gay and

lesbian Jews in the Bay Area, and some of them will join us *because* we have a rabbi.

"Okay, I'm convinced. We could do wonderful things with this superstar. But what about the little matter of paying his or her salary?"

I'm glad you mentioned it. Most likely, the rabbinic candidates will mention it too.

Certainly we'll have to look very carefully at our budget for this year, and for the next few years. But don't forget — until July of this year, we were paying the salary of a rabbi. True, in the first year of his tenure, he was part-time; and we may want to consider a part-time rabbi again. Or, we may decide that this is important enough to us to raise our dues a bit next year, if that's what it takes. In any case, *nothing* will be done without the whole Congregation having a chance to vote on it.

Can we get along without a rabbi? Of course we can. We could also have gotten along without our new synagogue building; we could have continued meeting at the JCC, or any other place that would have us, forever transients, forever wandering Jews. We thought we deserved better. In fact, we thought that we gay and lesbian Jews were entitled to expect the same things from our synagogue that most people expect from theirs. We were right. And one of the things most people expect from their synagogue is a rabbi. We are mature, stable and secure, and free enough to demand it all.

Bo nasa et ze! (Let's do it!)

Shalom.

— Mike

So Where's the Meeting?

The monthly Va'ad meeting and most committee meetings are now held at the Synagogue, 220 Danvers at Caselli. If the meeting is being held at another location, the *Forward* calendar listing shows either the address or a phone number to contact for information.

Also, there is now a calendar posted in the Oneg room in the Synagogue, where all meetings and other activities of the Congregation are listed. So check these two calendars regularly to find out what's going on at Sha'ar Zahav.

Mazal Tov, B.C.C.

Our sibling congregation in Los Angeles was able to celebrate Chanukah this year in a most joyous fashion. Besides the more traditional events of latke eating and more latke eating, their Chanukah Celebration was coupled with a Mortgage Burning Ceremony. Congratulations to Beth Chayim Chadashim on this landmark in their ownership of their home at 6000 West Pico Boulevard!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
א 1	ב 2	ג 3 Women's Chavurah 7pm - 4665 18th	ד 4	ה 5 Rosh Chodesh A Building Comm. Social Action Comm. both 6:30pm	ו 6	ז 7
ח 8	ט 9 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm	י 10 Newsletter Deadline	יא 11	יב 12	יג 13	יד 14
טו 15	טז 16 Public Relations Comm. 7pm	יז 17	יח 18 Newsletter Comm. 648-4818	יט 19 Tu B'Shevat Building Comm. 6:30pm	כ 20	כא 21
כב 22	כג 23 Finance Comm. 5:30pm	כד 24	כה 25	כו 26 Ritual Comm. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, #1705	כז 27	כח 28
כט 29	ל 30	א 31 East Bay Lunch Group 921-7846				

Ritual Calendar — January

Friday,
January 6
Torah: Bo, Ex. 10:1-13:16
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28
Steve Greenberg and Mark Mendelow,
Services

Friday,
January 13
Torah: Beshallach, Ex. 13:17-17:16
Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31
Daniel Chesir and Sharon Silverstein,
Services
Larry Cohen, Haftarah
Torah Service

Friday,
January 20
Torah: Yitro, Ex. 18:1-20:23
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5
Garry Koenigsberg, Services
Guest Sermon: Rabbi Dave Davis, Vice
President, University of San Francisco

Friday,
January 27
Torah: Mishpatim, Ex. 21:1-24:18
Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:25,26
Leslie Bergson and Steve Cronenwalt,
Services

February Preview

Friday,
February 3
Torah: Ex. 25:1-27:19
Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24
Jonathan Funk and Ron Lezell, Services

Regular Friday night services are held at 8:15 at our
new home, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San
Francisco.

NOTICE

**The Synagogue Office has
MOVED to our new building,
220 Danvers at Caselli.**

The new phone number
for the office is
(415) 861-6932.

January Birthdays!

8	Garry Koenigsberg	26	Michael Barclay
19	Lynn Alcorn	27	Elliot Klein
19	Mike Rankin	28	John Hughes
19	Yo Schneeman	30	Aaron Cooper
21	Stephen Rosenbaum	30	Ruth
25	Janis Greenberg		

Onegs (and More Onegs)

With this issue, we are reviving the *Forward* tradition of acknowledging the names of all those generous persons who have sponsored Onegs following our Friday night services. During October and November, Onegs were sponsored by the following persons:

- Oct. 7 - Joan Blazewick, in honor of Sha'ar Zahav
- Oct. 14 - David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, on the occasion of their 9th Anniversary
- Nov. 11 - Allan Berenstein, on the occasion of Joan Blazewick's departure to Diego Garcia
- Nov. 18 - Joseph Shaber, brother of David Shaber, in honor of their parents
- Nov. 25 - Mike Rankin, on the occasion of his and Doug's 6-month anniversary; Ben Marcus in honor of those who helped him through his recent illness

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Larry Cohen at an Oneg or call him at 493-0535 or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$30-40 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Classified Ads

HEBREW LESSONS (modern emphasized) by experienced serious fluent teacher. All levels — private or group. Flexible schedule. Reasonable rates. Debbie, 626-8189.

FEMINIST THERAPIST sensitive to all issues including physical disabilities, chronic illness, and death and dying. Nanci Stern, in San Francisco, 863-5081. Sliding scale fees.

East Coast Women's Meeting

An East Coast Jewish Women's Gathering presented by Jewish Lesbians and Feminists is tentatively planned for October 12-14, 1984. The next planning meeting is scheduled for January 13-14 on Long Island, New York. For information regarding this Gathering, contact Project 5744, 699 Oriole Ave., West Hempstead, NY 11552.

January Yahrzeits

- 7 Dora Stone, Aunt of Bart Benderoff
- 9 (5 Shevat) Max Rosenstein, Father of Jerry Rosenstein
- 13 Morris Gabay, Father of Ed Gabay
- 14 (18 Shevat) Shlomo Ben Haim Bercu, Father of Dubi Barcan
- 18 (Full Moon) Chris Woodmansee, Friend of Naomi Baran
- 19 Ayala Friedman, Mother of Daniel Sonnenfeld
- 20 Sophie Sagorsky, Grandmother of Marc Lipschultz
- 25 Lev Liberman, Father of Gerson Liberman
- 26 Sascha Wiedeman, Former Lover of Michael Barclay
- 28 Estelle Liberman, Mother of Deborah Liberman, Wife of Gershon Liberman
- 31 Phillip Kalis, Father of Betty Kalis



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California
(415) 861-6932

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101

Officers: President, Mike Rankin; Treasurer, David Stein; Recorder, Eric Keitel

Va'ad (Board) Members: Don Albert, Allan Berenstein, Alex Ingersoll, Ron Lezell, Mark Mendelow, Nancy Meyer, Leila Raim, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Coordinator: Mike Freedland

Committee Chairs: Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus; Building, David Gellman; Bylaws, David Gass; Finance, Tom Rothgiesser; Membership, Allan Berenstein/Alita Rosenfeld; Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll; Oneg, Larry Cohen; Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky; Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper/Leila Raim; Ritual, Leslie Bergson; Social Action, Ron Lezell; Social Program, Mark Mendelow, Women's Chavurah, Chair shared by committee.

Office Manager: Susan Greenspan (Office is open Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.)